

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 09706 011716Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 MC-02 IGA-02 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /110 W

-----032543 011904Z /44

R 011245Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0142

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLAS NAIROBI 9706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, KE, SO, ET, UK

SUBJ: KENYA PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS; MORE REACTION ON SOMALI
SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: AS PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED, BACKBENCH ADN
GOVERNMENT MP'S VOICED CONTINUED CONCERN ABOUT WESTERN
ARMS ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. NAIROBI BRANCH OF KANU PARTY
CALLED ON BRITAIN TO ABANDON ITS PROPOSED ASSISTANCE; AND
NEWS COMMENTATOR QUESTIONED U.S. RELIANCE ON ARMS RATHER
THAN DIPLOMACY IN THE HORN. END SUMMARY.

2. BACK BENCHERS AND GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
DELIVERED THEMSELVES OF A FINAL ROUND OF "DON'T PUSH US"
RHETORIC AIMED AT SOMALIA BEFORE ADJOURNMENT JULY 29.
VICE PRESIDENT MOI, LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, ASSURED
PARLIAMENT THAT "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CLAIMING OTHER
COUNTRIES' LAND, BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR
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BORDERS FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO ANNEX OUR LAND."
FEAR EXCITED BY WESTERN AID TO SOMALIA SURFACED OPENLY
AS ONE BACKBENCH MEMBER CLAIMED "THE ARMS BRITAIN IS
SUPPLYING TO SOMALIA ARE FOR ATTACKING KENYA."
PARLIAMENT IS TO RE-CONVENE SEPTEMBER 13.

3. ON SAME DAY NAIROBI BRANCH OF KANU PARTY CALLED ON

BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO STOP ANY MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA, CLAIMING BRANCH "WILL NEVER BE CONVINCED BY ANYBODY THAT THE MILITARY AID NOW PROMISED TO SOMALI GOVERNMENT WILL NOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE BE USED AGAINST KENYA AS IT IS NOW HAPPENING IN ETHIOPIA." STATEMENT WAS RELEASED BY SAMMY MAINA, BRANCH ORGANIZING SECRETARY (AND A PERENNIAL PUBLICITY HOUND), WHO ALSO OBSERVED THAT "KENYA IS NO DOUBT THE NEXT TARGET." BOTH MAINA AND ABOVE QUOTED MP GINORED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ARMING SOMALIA, POINTING FINGER ONLY AT BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

4. "SUNDAY NATION" FEATURED FULL-PAGE THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF SUPERPOWER INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA UNDER TITLE "AMERICA'S NEW ALLIES IN AFRICA." TONE IS GENERALLY PRO-WEST. COMMENTATOR ALFRED ARAUJO NOTES THAT U.S. MOVES IN EGYPT, SUDAN AND SOMALIA ARE AIMED AT REDUCING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE AREA, FINDS THAT "SCALES TIPPING HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF THE AMERICANS." HOWEVER, ARAUJO EXPRESSES SOME RESENTMENT AND SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT NEW U.S. ROLE. ARMING OF SOMALIA, HE SAID, "IS BOUND TO LEAD TO PUZZLEMENT IN KENYA, WHICH FOR LONG HAS BEEN AT ODDS WITH SOMALIA OVER THAT COUNTRY'S ILL FONDED TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO PARTS OF NORTHERN KENYA." HE SUGGESTS THAT "RATHER THAN RUSH IN WITH NEW WEAPONRY, EVEN THOUGH IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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OSTENSIBLY FOR DEFENSE, THE U.S., WITH BRITAIN IN TOW, WOULD HAVE DONE FAR BETTER FIRST TO TRY DIPLOMATIC MEANS OF SETTLING THE SERIES OF CONFLICTS." AFRICA, HE CONCLUDES RESIGNEDLY, "HAS BECOME THE NEW BATTLE-FIELD, THE FOOTBALL TO BE KICKED AROUND" BY THE SUPER-POWERS.
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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